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FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES USSR

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Address to the ~~99~~ of the CPSU

Following is the translation of an unsigned article entitled "XIV Sessiya Obshchego Sobraniya Akademii Meditsinskikh Nauk SSSR" (Obrashcheniye to TsK KPSS)" (English version above) in Vestnik Akademii Med Nauk SSSR (Herald of the Acad. of Med. Sci. USSR), Vol. XV, No. 5, Moscow, 1960, pages 3-7.

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The General Assembly of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, convened for the 14th regular session, sends to the tried and wise leader of all great deeds and struggles of our people, the Lenin Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, its cordial and ardent greetings.

The work of our session began when our great Party and the Soviet Government again demonstrated before the entire world the new remarkable step on the path of strengthening of peace and safety of peoples, on the path of elimination of the cold war.

The law passed by the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, decreeing a further reduction of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union by one-third, represents a striking expression of the readiness of our government to implement the plan of total and complete disarmament introduced by the Head of the Soviet Government, Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, at the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization.

This noble act of our government releases large resources for further improvement of the living standard of the Soviet people, for the development of culture and science, and for the protection of the health of the population. The resolution passed by the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR, "On means for further improvement of medical service and health protection for the populat-

ion of the USSR" represents a vivid confirmation of the tireless work of our Party and government for the benefit of our nation. This remarkable document contains an urgent, concrete program of work for all organs of public health and all medical institutions in the country during the period of extensive building of Communism in our country.

At the same time, in this resolution are defined with exceptional clarity the tasks which face our medical science and the Academy, which issue from the problems of further development of Soviet public health.

We recognize with full responsibility and accept the just criticism of the shortcomings of the work of our Academy in the matter of development of urgent questions and problems of the medical science, particularly those connected with the elimination and reduction of infectious diseases, the study of the causes, and the search for effective prophylaxis and treatment, of mass affections, in the introduction of the achievements of medical science into the practice of public health, and in the search for new medicinal means and therapeutic preparations.

Also justified is the reproach made to us that, in the development of medical science, there is still insufficient utilization of the latest achievements of biology, physics, chemistry and radiology.

We are deeply grateful to the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government for the high evaluation of the noble work of the medical workers of our great Motherland and we assure the Central Committee and Soviet Government that we shall apply all our efforts and knowledge in the implementation of the noble tasks placed before us by our Party and government, and that we shall work tirelessly for the benefit of our people -- the first nation in the world's history to build a path to the glorious heights of Communism.

Long live our great Motherland -- the stronghold of peace and socialism!

Long live the Communist Party -- the leader and organizer of all great victories of the Soviet people!

Long live peace in the entire world!

OPENING ADDRESS

President of the Acad. of Sci. USSR, Academician
A. N. Bakulev

Dear Comrades!

On behalf of the Presidium of the Academy of Medical

Sciences, USSR, permit me to extend my cordial greeting to all members of the Academy and guests of this session.

During the time that has elapsed since the 13th Session of the General Assembly, events of great historical importance have taken place.

The entire Soviet nation is successfully carrying out the Seven Year Plan, according to the decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU.

The December Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demonstrated to the entire world the remarkable success achieved by agriculture in creating an abundance of nutritious products for the population and thus raising the living standard of the nation.

The Soviet people received with deep gratification the report of N. S. Khrushchev, "Disarmament -- a Path to strengthening and Ensuring Peace Among Nations." The implementation of the ideas of general disarmament will considerably relieve the international climate of tension and will direct men's activity toward the service of progress.

I. P. Pavlov, in his call to eliminate wars, said: "War, essentially, is a beastly way of solving life's difficulties, a method unworthy of man's intellect with its immense resources."

I shall obviously express the general opinion in stating that we workers in medical science and public health are grateful to our Party and government for the policy of peace and for the unexampled energy and initiative of N. S. Khrushchev in its implementation. (Storm of applause.)

An immense contribution to the relaxation of international tension was made by Soviet scientists whose magnificent successes in their work have enabled the Soviet Union to occupy a firm and foremost place in the matters of the conquest of space and the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and whose discoveries have ensured the reliability of the defense of our country.

The noble task of medical science is to serve the people. The tasks of science are not destruction, but construction. The foremost scientists of the entire world are becoming more active in advocating the use of science only for the benefit of the people. Disarmament makes possible the release of colossal means which will ensure a rise in the standard of living of the population and make possible the organization of extensive scientific studies directed toward the benefit of all nations. It will make it possible to coordinate more completely scientific research throughout the entire world and to unify the efforts of scientists of various countries to solve, among other problems, the problems of oncology and cardiovascular diseases and to eliminate a whole

series of widespread diseases, especially acute infections of children.

One of the examples of scientific cooperation is the development of research in the field of poliomyelitis. The search for a vaccine against poliomyelitis, initiated by the American researchers Salk and Sabin, enabled Soviet scientists to prepare a live vaccine in a comparatively short period of time. It is planned during the current year to administer this vaccine to the entire child population of the Soviet Union, i. e., to over 80 million individuals, and to begin work on the practical problem of eliminating poliomyelitis from the territory of the Soviet Union. We must note the great work toward the solution of this problem by Corresponding Members of the Academy of Medical Sciences, USSR, Profs. M. P. Chumakov and A. A. Smorodintsev.

We could cite quite a few other instances where the scientific institutions of the Academy developed and introduced in practice many important methods of investigation, prevention and treatment of a number of diseases. First of all, there have been created new medicinal preparations and antibiotics, new methods of treatment of cardiovascular diseases, studies in the field of physiology and pathology, hygiene, and in many other branches of theoretical and practical medicine.

There have been developed new surgical methods and effective preventive measures which enable us to reduce to a minimum industrial and manufacturing traumatism and to prevent the development of many occupational diseases. In my opinion, this useful activity brings honor to the entire medical science of the country and is a source of legitimate pride to our Academy.

The resolution of TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers, USSR, "On Measures for Further Improvement of the Medical Service and Protection of the Health of the Population of the USSR", has placed very important tasks before the Academy. In the first place there are problems the solutions of which are perhaps no less significant than the solutions of problems of utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes, or of problems of the conquest of space. I have in mind the problem of oncology. The difficulty in solving the cancer problem is explained by the fact that the laws of living matter, especially of the animal and, still more, the human organism are extremely complex, and their elucidation requires much time for carrying out experimental research and very extensive biological generalizations. This hinders the quick solution of the problem. We must considerably intensify and deepen research in this field. The great help from the government and the modern equipping of our institutions

will enable us to carry out research on a new systematic level.

Of similar importance is the problem of cardiovascular pathology, which must attract even greater attention. There is need for extensive research devoted to the prevention of cardiovascular infections. It is essential that hygienists, physiologists and neuropathologists be participants in this work. It is necessary to intensify studies devoted to the importance of physical culture and of combatting fatigue in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

Of great prophylactic significance in strengthening the health of the population will be the reduction of the work day which is now being carried out in our country.

We are in need of more research in preventive and therapeutic preparations -- antibiotics, hormones, vaccines and sera -- for effective therapy and prevention of infectious diseases.

Investigations must be intensified in the development of norms for the hygiene of populated localities, regarding water, air and soil, occupation environments and child nutrition.

It is necessary by all means to develop and deepen research in the basic problems of theoretical medicine, i. e., in physiology, biochemistry, cytology, virology and immunology. Theoretical studies will aid us in opening up new paths of development in the prevention and treatment of various diseases.

At this session we will discuss the report of the Presidium of the Academy, which is devoted to a basic summary of the activity of the many thousand-strong collective of institutes of the Academy; we will evaluate the work of the Presidium and conduct election of new members which will considerably enlarge its compositions; and we will also elect a new Presidium and discuss a number of reports devoted to the problems of antibiotics and chemotherapy.

In the development of these problems there has accumulated a number of large and serious questions which require detailed discussion. Among them are such problems as the search for new active anticancer antibiotics and chemotherapeutic preparations, their immunizing effects, and means and methods of searching for new therapeutic substances.

In placing the discussion of this problem before the session, the Presidium of the Academy was of the opinion that the accumulated experience in the use of antibiotics would serve as an ample basis for the evaluation of their positive points and for the elicitation of their defects. Through experience, the previous opinion as to the safety of antibiotics has changed. There are not infrequent instances of

the emergence of candidamycoses, and it has been found that an incorrect use of antibiotics changes the characteristic symptoms of the disease and hampers the diagnosis. At the same time, the development of the science of antibiotics affords new possibilities of combatting a whole series of diseases, including malignancies. All this prompted us to place the problem of antibiotics on the agenda for discussion at this session.

The Party and the government show much concern for the development of medical science. During the past three years the Academy has created new institutions, in particular the Institute of Gerontology and Experimental Pathology and the Institute of Hygiene of Children and Adolescents in Kiev, and also the Institute of Hygiene of Children and Adolescents in Moscow. The appropriations for carrying out scientific medical research have been considerably enlarged.

New construction is initiated yearly. Only recently the working areas of the scientific institutions of the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR have increased by 60,000 m². A new complex of buildings has been constructed for the Institute of Poliomyelitis, and in the Institute of Virology, and also the Institute of Therapy have obtained new quarters. Construction is being completed on a complex of buildings of the Institute of Pediatrics, and construction has been started on the Institute of Medical Radiology and on new buildings for the Institutes of Oncology in Moscow and Leningrad. A large number of residential buildings have been completed for the Academy personnel.

At the present time the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR is in possession of well-equipped scientific research establishments; all necessary conditions have been created for carrying out scientific work on most complex medical problems at a high scientific level.

Our success depends now to a great extent on the correct organization of the conduct of scientific research, which includes wise planning and correctly organized coordination of research. We have every right to demand from the research institutions, and primarily from the leading ones, considerable improvement in the quality of the research carried out. It is known that, in correspondence with the decree of the government, the planning of medical science in the country is referred to the Academy. A great deal of planning has already been accomplished; however, it is still incomplete. The main drawback is in the still insufficient control actually exercised.

The presidium of the Academy thinks it necessary at present to effect a definite decentralization of scientific research work. An analysis of a summary of the 1960 plan of

scientific research on the most important problems of medical science, which had recently been examined by the Presidium, showed that the scientific medical councils of public health of the allied republics and many scientific research institutes and medical VUZ of the allied republics had begun to effect, to a considerably larger extent, the coordination of scientific activity with the leading institutions of the Academy. The scientific research institutes on the periphery, while carrying out the development of problems of regional pathology, cooperate actively in the complex development of the most important problems of medical science. But the duplication of scientific research, that is, research conducted on the same problems along similar lines, is still with us.

In order to achieve real results, we must concentrate all our efforts and means on the main areas of the scientific front. It is no secret that there are scientific research institutes whose project problems duplicate problems already solved. It is necessary to arrange the matter of planning in the Academy in such a way that each chair of a VUZ, or any given scientific research institute, would be in contact with the leading institution of the Academy on any given problem. It is necessary to establish contact with scientists of various countries for the joint development of problems.

Our session will have to discuss, finally, also such important problems as the introduction of the achievements of medical science into practical medicine.

This is a vital question, representing the main purpose of our entire scientific activity. Our work can be considered successful only if it is translated into reality and proves to be helpful to people. And every one of us must be vitally interested in applying everything new to practice as rapidly as possible. This can be achieved in various ways: by directly helping the manufacturing branch to master various preparations, by advocating the new preparation or method in print, radio and television, by lecturing to physicians on the subject, etc. In other words, we must be active in striving to make scientific achievements common property as rapidly as possible.

Dear friends!

After the 13th Session our medical science suffered great losses. Some outstanding workers in our science completed their life span: one was the pupil of the physiologist I. P. Pavlov, and an Academician and Active Member of the Academy Prof. K. M. Bykov; we also lost an outstanding researcher in the field of pediatrics, the Active Member of the Academy Prof. V. I. Molchanov, and the scientist-neuropatholo-

gist, Member of the Academy, Prof. A. M. Grinshteyn.

I ask this company to honor their memory by rising.
(Everybody rises.)

In starting the work of the session, I invite all participants to take an active part in the discussion of the account of the Presidium and other subjects on the agenda of the day. In science we must by all means develop criticism based on the desire to search for the truth, remembering that where there is no criticism, there is no science. I invite all participants of the session to make good use of this tool in the discussion of the Academy report and of the scientific problems which are placed on the agenda of the session.

With your permission I call this session of the General Assembly of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR to order.
(Applause.)

END